

APPROVED

TOWN OF WESTFORD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

DATE: April 20, 2004

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Millennium School

PRESENT: Christopher Romeo, Robert Jefferies, Allan Loiselle,
James Silva

ABSENT: Dini Healy-Coffin

OTHERS

PRESENT: Richard Barrett-Highway Superintendent,
Audience Members

Public Hearing - Story Street Petition

Romeo announced that due to an advertising error, the public hearing for the Story Street petition to make the road a one-way will be rescheduled.

Nutting Road/Route 40 Intersection Improvements

Romeo announced that the purpose of this meeting is to get public input regarding the proposed intersection improvements at Nutting Road and Route 40. Romeo also reported that the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) will be funding and conducting a comprehensive study of the Route 40 corridor during this summer.

Richard Barrett, Highway Superintendent, outlined the plans for the proposed intersection improvements at Groton Road and Nutting Road to control traffic using channelization. Granite curbing will be installed along the Rancho De Amigo Restaurant, 211 Groton Road. A traffic island is proposed for the intersection with additional signage. Barrett stated that the improvements offer green space and two lanes of traffic (12 ft. each) with white fog lines.

Barrett stated that the improvements can be done quickly and economically with the funding being provided by the developer of the Keyes Corner Condominium 40B project at 211 Groton Road. Barrett reported that the Highway Department and Board of Selectmen have received letters from residents regarding the parking problems associated with the variety store and Dunkin' Donuts. Those letters have been forwarded to the Police Department. The Highway Department and Board of Selectmen are awaiting a response.

Loiselle asked if the Highway Department considered the fuel deliveries at the gas station. Barrett stated that the plans were designed and reviewed by professional engineers and that the intersection can handle tractor trailers. Barrett stated that there are no plans for additional curbing in front of the gas station. Barrett also stated that the improvements will not impact the drainage coming into the intersection.

Barbara Chase, 216 Groton Road, asked for *No Parking* Signs on Route 40 near Crocker Drive. Chase stated that it is difficult to see coming out of her driveway and for other drivers coming out of Keyes Road due to the parking. Chase was also concerned with the safety of children walking to the store. Romeo stated that the Selectmen are in charge of signs on Route 40 and the situation is currently being reviewed by the Police Department. Upon input from the Police, the Selectmen can then make a decision regarding *No Parking* signs.

Craig Grimm, 98 Nutting Road, suggested that Keyes Road be included in the NMCOG traffic study. Grimm also asked for *No Parking* signs past his driveway. Silva stated that he would check into the scope of the NMCOG traffic study.

Elizabeth Hartofelis, 87 Nutting Road, was concerned that the NMCOG traffic study was projected for the summer as she felt that school bus traffic should be included in the study. Hartofelis stated that school bus parking is also an issue. Barrett stated that the Police are currently reviewing the buses parking on the street. Hartofelis was also concerned with the intersection improvements. Hartofelis felt that drivers would drive through the gas station to avoid the intersection and that the right hand turn lane could cause head-on collisions. Hartofelis asked for a *Do Not Enter* sign on Nutting Road. Hartofelis also felt that the fog lines would be inadequate to control the traffic and that non-local residents would not understand the signs. Hartofelis felt that the island would not be effective in controlling traffic. Barrett reviewed the plans with Hartofelis.

Kathy Bucchianeri, 26 Keyes Road, asked if traffic lights were considered for the intersection. Barrett stated that the test data required for the placement of traffic lights indicated that this intersection does not warrant traffic lights at this time. Bucchianeri felt that traffic lights would simplify the intersection. Barrett outlined the process for the placement of traffic lights.

Barrett addressed vehicle traffic accident data collected from the Rancho De Amigo site to Dunkin' Donuts over the past ten years. Barrett stated that there have been 35 vehicle accidents with 4 of those accidents requiring an ambulance.

Kathy Bucchianeri, 26 Keyes Road, asked if the new residents (Keyes Corner Condominiums) were considered when engineering the improvements. Jefferies

pointed out that the new residents cannot be taken into consideration until the condominiums are occupied. Loiselle also pointed out that NMCOG will be reviewing the level of service for all of Route 40.

Kevin Kearns, 208 Groton Road, asked if the history of the intersection was reviewed. Kearns stated that drivers tend not to stop at the sign stop. Kearns asked if any other intersection used an island with the same kind of speed that is on Route 40 as well as heavy industrial traffic. Kearns asked if the speed limit could be reduced. Barrett stated that it is difficult to reduce speed limits and often when speed is reviewed the State will increase the speed limit based upon a study of the occurring speeds. Barrett stated that a traffic speed study has not been done. Barrett outlined the other intersection improvements in Westford.

Irene Anderson, 52 Keyes Road, stated that she has seen an increase in traffic coming out of Keyes Road and that it takes time to make a left hand turn out of Keyes Road.

Wael Abdulkader, 4 Tenney Road, asked if the left hand turn from Keyes Road was evaluated. Barrett stated that the left hand turn was taken into consideration. Barrett felt that the intersection improvements would make the area safer.

Elisabeth Hartofelis, 87 Nutting Road, asked if the NMCOG study would include speed. Barrett stated that he did not know the full parameters of the study and that this was the first step to get the locations plotted. Barrett pointed out that further funding would be required for a speed study.

Romeo stated that the Selectmen need to give direction to the Zoning Board of Appeals. **It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Jefferies for discussion, to request that the Zoning Board of Appeals include this traffic plan of intersection improvements as a condition of approval. Jefferies asked to amend the motion to include the Do Not Enter sign where appropriate. Loiselle accepted Jefferies' amendment. Romeo stated that the developer will fund the improvements. VOTE: 4 IN FAVOR WITH 1 ABSENT (Healy-Coffin).**

Adjournment

It was moved by Jefferies, seconded by Silva, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR WITH 1 ABSENT (Healy-Coffin) to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Steve Ledoux, Town Manager

Christopher Romeo, Chairman

